

ART. XIV.—*Elements of Physiology.* By J. MULLER, M. D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the University of Berlin, etc. Translated from the German, by WM. BALY, M. D., etc. Arranged from the Second London Edition, by JOHN BELL, M. D., etc. 8vo. pp. 886. Philadelphia, Lea & Blanchard, 1843.

In a review of the greater portion of Professor Müller's Elements of Physiology, published in this Journal upwards of two years since, we took occasion to express our high estimate of the work, as affording a very full, able, and correct digest of the present state of physiology; in which the well established facts connected with the science are carefully distinguished from whatever is doubtful or purely hypothetical, and presented with that degree of distinctness and prominence, which is well calculated to convey to the reader clear and accurate views in relation to all that is known of the vital phenomena of the human organism.

The work before us is, strictly speaking, an abridgement of the larger work of Professor Müller from the English translation of Dr. Baly, in the execution of which, the editor, Dr. Bell, has exhibited no little skill and judgment.

We confess, that we have invariably entertained decided objections to all abridgements, but especially to those of scientific works, as being, in most cases, calculated to present imperfect, unfair, and even erroneous views of the labours of authors, and in this manner to mislead and bewilder the reader—we must nevertheless admit, after a tolerably minute and careful examination of Dr. Bell's abridged edition of Müller's Elements, we find that to it our objections to abridgements in general will scarcely apply—in truth, so well has the able editor accomplished his task, that, in many respects, but especially for the use of students, the abridgement is decidedly to be preferred to the original.

The omissions in the abridged edition, are of a character in no degree calculated to render it a less complete system of physiology than the larger work—it still "exceeding in copiousness and comprehensive details, any other work on the same subject," within the reach of the great body of the profession in this country.

The portions of the original work omitted in the abridgement, consist, to use the language of Dr. Bell, the accuracy of which we have tested by examination, "for the most part, of mere disquisitions, many details of experiments, matters of physics and natural philosophy, including mechanics under the head of locomotion, acoustics and the theories of music, under voice and hearing, and of optics under vision—much of the minutiae of comparative anatomy, and metaphysics or metaphysico-physiology. But, while excluding details on collateral topics, the editor has been particularly careful to preserve physiology proper, which, resting on the basis of histogeny and general anatomy, derives important aid from organic chemistry and microscopical observations, and, in its turn, serves to illustrate hygiene, pathology and therapeutics."

"In some parts of the 'Elements,' comparatively little abbreviation has been attempted;—as in the prolegomena of general physiology, which is a carefully condensed summary of the subjects embraced under the general head, and does not admit, without obscurity, of any material curtailment. So likewise, in the case of the functions of organic life, those of assimilation, nutrition and decomposition, much of the copiousness of facts and illustrations which constitutes so distinguishing a merit in the larger work, has been retained in the abridgement."

Some slight, but upon the whole, judicious changes in the arrangement of the subjects, have been made in the present edition; and a few notes at the foot, and some paragraphs in the body of the page, have been added by the Editor, embracing matter of a useful, and, in one or two instances, highly important character.

"With the exceptions just stated," Dr. Bell remarks, and we freely admit the correctness of his statement—"not only his manner of treating the various subjects, but the language of the author, has been preserved throughout, and hence, when it shall be discovered, as it readily may, by a comparison of the contents and index with those of the London edition, that there is scarcely a fact or proposition in human physiology, and none of either applied to hygiene, pathology or therapeutics, in the original work, as translated by Dr. Baly, that is not met with in the present volume, it will not be considered too much to say, that this latter contains emphatically Müller's 'Elements of Physiology,' with nearly the characteristics which give it value in the eyes of the student. So earnest has been the desire of the editor to complete in a suitable manner his arrangement of the work, that he has retained nearly all the bibliography, which manifests the extensive reading and research, as well as love of accuracy of the author. Not only did this measure seem to be due to Müller himself, but also to his readers in this country, the latter of whom will have it in their power, when quoting Müller, to repeat his references to all the authors on every leading question in physiology, and to carry out, if they desire it, an independent course of inquiry for themselves."

We should have been still more pleased with the present edition of the Elements of Müller, had the additions to and annotations upon the original text, by the translator, Dr. Baly, been, throughout, as distinctly marked as in the London edition. It is important, in many points of view, that the reader should always be aware of the facts and opinions which are to be referred to the authority of the author himself, and those which have been added by successive editors;—unless the means are afforded him for making this distinction, injustice may be unintentionally done to all the parties concerned—author, editor and reader.

Taken as a whole, we may remark in conclusion, that the present edition of Dr. Müller's "Elements of Physiology," as condensed and arranged by Dr. Bell, can, with great propriety, be recommended to the notice of all who desire to become acquainted with the vital phenomena and laws of the living organism, so far as they have been revealed to us by cautious observations and experiments. In no work can these be studied with greater profit than in that of the Berlin Professor—all the important materials of which, as well as all "its vitality and mind," have been carefully retained in the abridgement before us. D. F. C.

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ART. XV.—*Quarterly Summary of the Transactions of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.* August, September, and October, 1842.

THE principal papers read before the College the past quarter were, the history of a case in which an aneurismal sac was formed within the cranium, by Professor Dudley, of Lexington; a case of biliary calculi, by Dr. W. S. Zantzinger; on the construction of Insane Hospitals, by Dr. B. H. Coates; and the result of personal observations and investigations during the last five years, on the subject of Mesmerism, by Dr. J. K. Mitchell.

Dr. Dudley successfully treated his case of aneurism within the cranium by tying the common carotid artery. The following are the details of this case:

"J. C. Burgess came to Lexington in the winter of 1841, and gave the following history of his case:—As early as 1836, he had become subject, at irregular periods, to pain over the right eye, which gradually increased, both in the frequency of its recurrence, and in the attendant suffering; and before the expiration of the second year, the eye was considerably protruded from the socket. In 1839, the right temple, as well as the eye of that side, was morbidly prominent, and about this time the pain became so exruciating, as to occasion delirium, one attack of which was protracted to fifteen days. Occasional severe pain was at this period of the case experienced also in the left side of the face and temple.

"During the winter of 1838-9, for a number of weeks, his suffering was incessant, but was finally much lessened after a copious spontaneous discharge, from